

Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1980 Replacement Volume and 1980 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

4-501.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) "Abuse" means one or more of the following acts between household members:

(1) To cause serious bodily harm;

(2) To place another in fear of imminent serious bodily harm; or

(3) To sexually abuse a child, as defined by Article 27, § 35A(b)8.

(c) "Court" means the District Court or a circuit court in this State.

(d) "Family home" is the property in this State that:

(1) Is the principal residence of the household members; and

(2) At the time of the proceeding is owned, rented, or leased by at least one of the household members.

(e) "Household members" means spouses, [parents, or minor children who resided together at the time of the act of abuse.] PERSONS--LIVING--AS--THOUGH--THEY--WERE--SPOUSES, PARENTS, CHILDREN, OR OTHER PERSONS RELATED TO ONE ANOTHER BY CONSANGUINITY WHO RESIDE-OR-HAVE RESIDED TOGETHER AT THE TIME OF THE ACT OF ABUSE.

(F)--"LAW--ENFORCEMENT--AGENCY"--INCLUDES--THE--STATE POLICE,--COUNTY--AND--MUNICIPAL--POLICE--DEPARTMENTS,--AND SHERIFF'S--OFFICES,--THE--USUAL--DUTIES--OF--WHICH--INCLUDE--THE MAKING--OF--ARRESTS--

(G)--"LAW-ENFORCEMENT-OFFICER"--MEANS-A-PERSON--WHO,--IN HIS--OFFICIAL-CAPACITY,--IS-AUTHORIZED-BY-LAW-TO-MAKE-ARRESTS AND-WHO-IS-A-MEMBER-OF-A-LAW-ENFORCEMENT-AGENCY--

4-502.

(a) A household member may seek relief by filing a petition with the court alleging abuse by another household member.